

# Emerald Ash Borer Workshop



***When:*** Thursday, February 27, 2014, 7:00 PM

***Where:*** Louisville Recreation Center, 900 West Via Appia

***Who:*** Anyone interested in learning about the EAB and its potential effects

***Sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department &  
the Horticulture and Forestry Advisory Board***

**For more information, please call 303.335.4733.**

# **Emerald Ash Borer Detected in Boulder County**

*Provided by Whitney Cranshaw, Extension Entomologist, Colorado State University Extension*

You may have heard, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) announced the emerald ash borer (EAB) has been confirmed in Boulder.

If you are not aware of EAB, it is arguably the most devastating invasive insect to have breached the North American shores in many decades. Since its accidental introduction into Michigan and detection in 2002 it has spread across much of the eastern half of the US and Canada killing tens of millions of ash trees. There is every reason to believe it will likely eliminate essentially every ash tree where the insect is present, causing extraordinary ecological and economic damage. All species of ash trees native to North America are susceptible, including the very widely planted green and white ash used as street trees in Colorado.

The CDA and Federal agencies involved in tracking exotic insects are working to determine the extent of the present infestation. We can hope that it is limited to the single site, but expect a greatly intensified effort in the upcoming year to limit the current range of EAB in Colorado.

You will hear what plans there are to help slow the spread in Colorado. Although eradication is not possible, aggressive management can greatly slow the rate of tree loss and spread of the insect. This can be tremendously helpful in slowing the rate of tree loss, with its associated costs, and in planning for replacements. (This insect will cost many municipalities millions of dollars over the next decade in expenses related to tree removal alone.)

There is one important difference in how the EAB may play out in Colorado versus the rest of the country. Our ash trees are almost entirely human planted and exist in discrete pockets, with significant geographic barriers in many locations. This can help contain and slow the spread and, perhaps, even prevent its establishment in some communities if efforts are made to control it. That EAB is in Boulder does mean it ultimately will spread throughout the northern Front Range. However, outside this region EAB will only move with human assistance. Therefore areas such as Colorado Springs, Pueblo – and everywhere west of the Continental Divide, will not be colonized by EAB without separate introductions by humans. (The beetles are carried on infested ash logs.)

EAB controls should only be used in communities where EAB is known to be present. At this point it is only known from Boulder. Until the insect is found in other specific areas, EAB controls should not be used.

*For more information about if, how, and when you should treat your ash trees, please contact City Forester Chris Lichty at [ChrisL@LouisvilleCO.gov](mailto:ChrisL@LouisvilleCO.gov) or 303.335.4733.*